

In the Claims

1. A system for configuring a representation of data objects in a reporting system, comprising:

a set of at least two data objects; and

5 a selection tool, communicating with the set of at least two data objects, the selection tool being operable to select at least two of the at least two data objects to define an editable relationship between the at least two data objects in the reporting system.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the relationship comprises a network graph.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the network graph comprises a directed graph.

10 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the relationship defines a direction of one object to another and the direction of the object with respect to the other object differs from the directional relationship of those objects in the database where those data objects reside.

15 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the relationship defines an ordering of one object with respect to another and the ordering in the editable relationship differs from the ordering of the two objects in the database where those data objects reside.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the editable relationship establishes relationships between at least one object that is not related to the database where other data objects reside.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one object not related to the database is derived from an object in the database.

20 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the editable relationship may skip objects that otherwise exist in the relationship of objects in the database.

9. The system of claim 3, wherein the selection tool is operable to designate at least one of the set of at least two data objects as an entry point.

10. The system of claim 2, wherein the network graph is traversable.
11. The system of claim 1, wherein the set of at least two data objects corresponds to data stored in at least one data source.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the at least one data source comprises at least one
5 database.
13. The system of claim 7, further comprising a request engine, the request engine translating requests based on the relationship into requests for access to the at least one database.
14. The system of claim 13, wherein the requests generate results from the at least one database, and the request engine presents the results in the representation.
15. The system of claim 1, wherein the selection tool comprises a graphical user interface.
16. The system of claim 1, wherein the set of at least two data objects is associated with an OLAP-compliant database.
17. The system of claim 1, wherein the relationship is extensible.
18. The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one of a relationship table, a binary tree and a linked list, storing a representation of the relationship.
19. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the at least two data objects comprises an associated security attribute.
20. The system of claim 19, wherein the associated security attribute restricts access to the at least one data object according to predetermined criteria.
- 20 21. The system of claim 11 wherein a plurality of representations may be generated from the at least one data source.
22. A method for configuring a representation of data objects in a reporting system, comprising:

a) accessing a set of at least two data objects; and

b) selecting at least two of the set of at least two data objects to define an editable relationship between the at least two data objects in the reporting system.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the relationship comprises a network graph.

5 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the network graph comprises a directed graph.

25. The method of claim 22, further comprising a step of c) designating at least one of the set of at least two data objects as an entry point.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein the network graph is traversable.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein the set of at least two data objects corresponds to data stored in at least one data source.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one data source comprises at least one database.

29. The method of claim 22, wherein the relationship defines a direction of one object to another and the direction of the object with respect to the other object differs from the directional relationship of those objects in the database where those data objects reside.

30. The method of claim 22, wherein the relationship defines an ordering of one object with respect to another and the ordering in the editable relationship differs from the ordering of the two objects in the database where those data objects reside.

31. The method of claim 22, wherein the editable relationship establishes relationships between at least one object that is not related to the database where other data objects reside.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the at least one object not related to the database is derived from an object in the database. •

33. The method of claim 22, wherein the editable relationship may skip objects that otherwise exist in the relationship of objects in the database.

34. The method of claim 27, further comprising a step of d) translating requests based on the relationship into requests for access to the at least one database.

5 35. The method of claim 34, further comprising a step of e) generating results from the at least one database based on the requests, and f) presenting the results in the representation.

36. The method of claim 22, wherein the selection tool comprises a graphical user interface.

37. The method of claim 22, wherein the set of at least two data objects is associated with an OLAP-compliant database.

38. The method of claim 22, wherein the relationship is extensible.

39. The method of claim 22, further comprising a step of f) storing the representation of the relationship in at least one of a relationship table, a binary tree and a linked list.

40. The method of claim 22, wherein at least one of the at least two data objects comprises an associated security attribute.

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising a step of g) restricting access to the at least one data object based on the security attribute according to predetermined criteria.

42. The method of claim 27, further comprising a step of h) generating a plurality of representations based on the at least one data source.

43. A machine readable medium, the machine readable medium being readable to execute a method for configuring a representation of data objects in a reporting system, the method comprising:

a) accessing a set of at least two data objects; and

44. The medium of claim 33, wherein the set of at least two data objects corresponds to data stored in at least one data source.

45. The medium of claim 34, wherein the at least one data source comprises at least one database.

5 46. The medium of claim 35, the method further comprising a step of c) translating requests based on the relationship into requests for access to the at least one database.